

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:NB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SU

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF WASHINGTON TRIP BY SPEAKER BAKR
AND COLLEAGUES

REF: KHARTOUM 995

1. DEPARTMENT WAS INFORMED MONDAY EVENING THAT SPEAKER BAKR HAD BEEN CALLED TO PARIS FOR UNEXPECTED MEETING AND WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON. WE EXPRESSED REGRET TO AMB. DENG THAT SPEAKER WAS UNABLE TO VISIT WITH US HERE AND ASSURED DENG WE LOOKED FORWARD TO FUTURE VISIT BY SPEAKER OR OTHER OFFICIALS.

2. INSTEAD OF ARRIVING FROM MEXICO CITY ON EVENING OF APRIL 26 (SEE REFTTEL), SUDAN EMBASSY INFORMED US ON APRIL 24 THAT BAKR HAD ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY IN NEW YORK AND WISHED TO KNOW WASHINGTON SCHEDULE. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE UNWILLING TO COMMIT SPEAKER TO WASHINGTON ETA UNTIL ALL APPOINTMENTS COULD BE CONFIRMED. WE TOLD EMBASSY THAT WE HAD ARRANGED CALLS ON SPEAKER ALBERT, RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TOM CLARK, ACTING ASST. SECRETARY TALCOTT SEELYE, AND VISITS TO AFL/CIO, CITY HALL, VIP WHITE HOUSE

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TOUR AND THE FORD AND UDALL CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS. WE

ADDED THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH OTHER CAPITOL HILL FIGURES WHICH WE COULD ONLY CONFIRM AFTER CONGRESSMEN RETURNED ON APRIL 26. WHEN COMPLETE SCHEDULE INCLUDING CALL ON SENATE MINORITY WHIP GRIFFIN WAS GIVEN EMBASSY ON MONDAY MORNING, EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT THE SPEAKER HAD BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND A MEETING IN PARIS WHICH MIGHT PREVENT HIS COMING TO WASHINGTON. EMBASSY LATER CALLED BACK TO INFORM US OF CANCELLATION OF WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT SPEAKER BAKR DELIBERATELY CHOSE PARIS OVER WASHINGTON AFTER LEARNING OF OUR SCHEDULED PROGRAM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CANCELLATION REFLECTED JUDGMENT THAT PROGRAM DID NOT ACCORD WITH SPEAKERS RANK OR THAT DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS AND OURS, IT WAS OTHERWISE NOT SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE. SEELYE EXPRESSED GREAT REGRET TO AMBASSADOR DENG THAT SPEAKER UNABLE TO PROCEED WITH HIS SCHEDULE AND UNDERScored OUR VIEW THAT PROGRAM WE HAD PREPARED WAS AN EXCELLENT ONE. WHEN AMBASSADOR HAS OCCASION, PLEASE REPEAT TO SPEAKER AND HIS COLLEAGUES OUR REGRET THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO COME TO WASHINGTON. SISCO

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